

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 10/068,977 Confirmation No.: 6224
Applicants : Curtis W. Hallowell
Robert J. Klein
Marc C. Munro
Bradford T. Graves
Filed : February 8, 2002
Title : Multiple Pocket Currency Processing Device and Method
TC/A.U. : 3653
Examiner : Kenneth W. Bower
Docket No. : 47171-00344USP1
Customer No. : 30223

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being faxed to Examiner Kenneth W. Bower at (703) 305-3579 at the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on October 29, 2003.

Signature: Maureen Hammonds
Maureen Hammonds

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW

Dear Sir:

The Applicants' representative appreciates the telephonic interview afforded by Examiner Bower on October 28, 2003.

To clarify the record, Applicants file this paper in response to the Interview Summary provided by the Examiner and the associated paper withdrawing the office action dated September 29, 2003. Applicants' representative requested the interview in response to being confused about the office action dated September 29, 2003. For example, paragraph 4 of the September 29, 2003 appeared to be indicating that the Examiner desired some kind of election requirement to be made; however, the office action failed to clearly identify each of the disclosed species to which claims are restricted as required by MPEP 809.02(a). Accordingly, the

Applicants' representative was unable to determine how the Examiner was dividing up the claims and hence he could not determine how to reply to the office action. During the interview it was also pointed out that the currently pending method claims recited "currency", e.g., claim 1 states "A method of sorting currency bills...using a currency bill evaluating device." Accordingly, Applicants' representative questioned the reference to the non-analogous mail sorter referred to in paragraph 2 of the office action dated September 29, 2003.

Comments Regarding Interview Summary Paper

First, it is pointed out that the interview was conducted on October 28, 2003.

It is also pointed out that information disclosure statements and references were not discussed.

Applicants' representative disagrees that he indicated that "all of the claims are to a single embodiment." Currently pending claims 1-34 correspond to thirty-four inventions. No indication was made that these claims were directed to a single embodiment. Rather, Applicants' representative merely pointed out that all the claims were directed to currency related methods and apparatuses. Possible ways of restricting these claims were discussed. Applicants' representative did not indicate that Applicants would traverse a restriction between the method and the apparatus claims nor did the Applicants' representative take a position one way or the other concerning any other possible restriction or election requirement which might be imposed by the Examiner. Rather, the Applicants' representative merely requested that should the Examiner choose to exercise his discretion in restricting or electing out patentably distinct inventions, that he clearly indicate the basis and boundaries of any such restriction/election

requirement so that the record would be clear and so that divisional applications could be filed should the Applicants not traverse any such requirement.

Applicants' representative also disputes the second sentence of the second paragraph of the Continuation Sheet, namely, "Explaining that the claimed invention...illustrated in Figures 1-27c at examiners discretion." The claims speak for themselves and are limited only by the express language contained therein. Applicants' representative do not limit, qualify, or otherwise characterize them. The claims are to be given their full scope. They are certainly not limited "only as described in the steps in Fig. 32...at examiners discretion." Applicants' did not make such representation during the interview and disagree with such characterization.

During the interview, various parts of the specification were discussed but no representations were made that any claim was limited to or by in particular portion of the specification. For example, page 9, line 30 – page 10, line 4 was pointed to as providing a generalized discussion of the layout of the specification.

Applicants' representative also disputes that the "Attorney also indicated that the apparatus claims read directly on the method claims." Applicants' representative has not made a rigid comparison of any claims. Rather based on a cursory review, Applicants' representative merely indicated that some apparatus and method claims appeared to be similar and expressly requested that the Examiner make his own examination of the claims and reach his own conclusions as to any similarity which may or may not be present. It was agreed that the Examiner would conduct his own examination and make his own determination as to any similarity and/or whether the Examiner would choose to exercise his discretion to require that patentably distinct inventions be divided out of the present application.

Applicants' representative also dispute that "It was agreed that the embodiments disclosed from pages 104-151 are not considered pertinent to the examination." These pages are obviously part of the specification and hence are pertinent to the same extent that the specification in general is pertinent. Rather, Applicants' representative simply questioned how these pages bore on the issue of dividing up currently pending claims 1-34 via restriction requirement or otherwise.

It was agreed that the drawings do in fact disclose multiple embodiments.

Comments Regarding Paper Accompanying Interview Summary

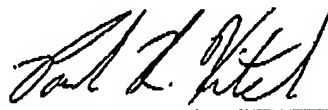
In addition to the Interview Summary, an additional paper was issued by the Examiner withdrawing the restriction requirement entered on September 29, 2003. See paragraph 1. This paper may be an Office Action. Applicants dispute and/or do not understand the four bullet pointed sentences contained in paragraph one and did not decide that these were significant or remaining issues. For example, the Applicants dispute that the "list of drawings fails to adequately disclose the embodiments contained therein." Furthermore, Applicants do not understand what this means or to what this is actually referring and note that Applicants' representative did not discuss this issue during the interview or decide anything in connection therewith.

It was agreed that the Examiner will review the application to determine whether he will choose to require any restriction of the claims.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the interview. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 29, 2003



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